



**CAMEROON BIOSECURITY PROJECT**  
*Development and Institution of a National Monitoring  
and Control System (Framework) for Living Modified Organisms (LMOs)  
and Invasive Alien Species (IAS)*

# List of major invasive species in Cameroon

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**Under the Supervision of:**

Project Component Four Taskforce (MINRESI)

&

The Biosecurity Project Coordination Unit (MINEPDED)



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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| AVRDC    | The World Vegetable Center  |
| CDC      | Cameroon Development Corporation  |
| CBP      | Cameroon Biosecurity Project  |
| EoL      | Encyclopedia of Life  |
| FAO      | Food and Agriculture Organisation   |
| GISD     | Global Invasive Species Database  |
| IITA     | International Institute for Tropical Agriculture                          |
| IAS      | Invasive alien species  |
| IPNI     | The International Plant Names Index                                       |
| IRAD     | Institute de recherché agricole pour le développement                     |
| ISSG     | IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group                                    |
| IUCN     | International Union for the Conservation of Nature                        |
| LMO      | Living modified organism  |
| MINADER  | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development                             |
| MINEPIA  | Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries                    |
| MINFOF   | Ministry of Forests and Fauna   |
| MINEPDED | Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development |
| MINRESI  | Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation                            |
| MINSANTE | Ministry of Public Health   |
| NPC      | National Project Coordinator  |
| PCU      | Project Coordination Unit   |
| ToT      | Training of trainers  |
| UNEP/GEF | United Nations Environment Programme / Global Environmental Facility      |

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is the product of a consultancy under the GEF funded Cameroon Biosecurity Project (CBP), with the aim of producing an up to date list of major invasive species in Cameroon. The list is based upon information available from Cameroon and globally. The information will be useful for those managing established invaders both in Cameroon and in the region. It will also provide valuable information for national and global databases.

An initial list of 168 species or groups of species ('taxa') was drawn up by the consultants from information derived from previous CBP consultancies and information contained in global databases. The taxa were grouped into four categories: crop pests and diseases (85 taxa), plants (54 taxa), animal and human diseases (20 taxa), and aquatic life and vertebrates (9 taxa). Information on each taxon was entered into an Excel spreadsheet.

Experts on each of these groups were requested to examine each field of the spreadsheet and change or add information as necessary, to add species that were missing from the list and to remove species from the list that they did not consider to be invasive in Cameroon and to give reasons for this removal. This work was carried out before, during and after a two day (*CBP listing, database and monitoring*) workshop held in June 2014.

Taxa were added, removed and put on a holding list – a list of species that could be added to the invasive species list but for which more precise information is needed. Following the consultative process the total numbers of taxa listed changed from 168 to 164 as summarised in the table below.

**ES Table 1. List of invasive taxa for Cameroon**

| Type of taxon           | No. in the draft list | No. removed | No. on holding list | No. added | No. on updated list |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Crop pests and diseases | 85                    | 8           | 10                  | 25        | 92                  |
| Plants                  | 54                    | 11          | 9                   | 1         | 35                  |
| Animal & human diseases | 20                    | 4           | 0                   | 10        | 26                  |
| Aquatic life & animals  | 9                     | 0           | 0                   | 2         | 11                  |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>168</b>            | <b>23</b>   | <b>19</b>           | <b>38</b> | <b>164</b>          |

The list produced has considerably refined that which previously existed but it is only a start and the list must be regularly updated. The fact that the situation is so dynamic means that one-time publications such as this are much less useful than databases which can be updated as situations change and as new information becomes available. The more important output of this work is the interoperable database of introduced species that

conforms to international data management standards (A.4.4.1.) for which this list is a crucial input.

Another important aspect of the work summarised in this report has been the process of producing the list itself which succeeded in bringing together experts from diverse sectors in Cameroon. This group has provided a prototype list of experts on particular groups. Like the list of species, this list of experts should be considered to be dynamic so needs regular updating.

Some challenges encountered in the work included the lack of clear identification of some species which highlighted the fundamental need for good taxonomy which underpins invasive species management; the difficulty of easily accessing information; data quality control; and the lack of information for certain groups, notably vertebrate invaders and aquatic species.

The following are recommended next steps that are of relevance to both the CBP and to the biosecurity system of Cameroon as a whole:

- Ensure that the information contained in this report and the Excel database is translated into an interoperable database of introduced species that conforms to international data management standards (Activity 4.4.1).
- Circulate the list to all those involved in the monitoring networks being established under the CBP (see the report on Activity A.4.3.5. to design a national biological invasions monitoring network for Cameroon).
- Use the updated information obtained during this consultancy to improve the content of the report of CBP Activity 4.3.3. Quantification of social, cultural, economic, environmental and biological impact of priority invasive species in Cameroon.
- Organise follow-up consultations to periodically review and update the list.
- Contact those on the list of experts to ensure that they are happy to be on the list and to ask for suggestions for additional names

Regularly review the listing process, the list and the list of experts.